

To Open the Navajo Lands.

At the next session of congress an effort will be made to have sections of the Navajo reservation opened to the enterprise of white men. The Navajos occupy one of the richest parts of Arizona, one mountain of which is held to be particularly rich in silver and gold. No white man has ever made detailed reports of the resources of the reservation, the main reason being that those who may have been qualified by observation have invariably failed to return to civilization. There was one exception—that is, a man who entered the forbidden fields by stealth came out with a mule load of gold, but when he went back for another load he stayed. It was reported that garments which resembled those he had worn were seen on a number of chiefs. It is apparent from this that the Navajos are not disposed to cultivate intimate relations with the whites. It is especially strange that this proud and exclusive race has never taken kindly to firewater and therefore is not to be bribed by what is commonly the most ardent desire of redmen.

That the whites on the borders have looked with yearning eyes toward the high mountain in the center of the reservation is not surprising. They are not without strong reason in the appeal for the intervention of the government. Capitalists have repeatedly attempted to buy from the Navajos the privilege of working mines in the Silver mountain or even to work the beds of the streams which are reputed to be rich in gold, but they have never been treated even to a courteous negative. The pride of the Indians is such that they profess to have a contempt for gold, except as ornaments. There are valleys of the exceptional fertility of which tradition speaks, but all the

splendid resources of the reservation are neglected.

The exclusive Navajos have carefully cultivated a spirit of contempt for the white man because he is not above toiling for his bread. They are an obstacle in the way of the development of a great tract of land which could add much to the wealth of the country. The sentiment of the people of the far west is in favor of such a use of the reservation as will aid in the prosperity of the section with the least disturbance of the Indians and the western senators and representatives will do what they can in that direction.—Mining and Engineering Review.

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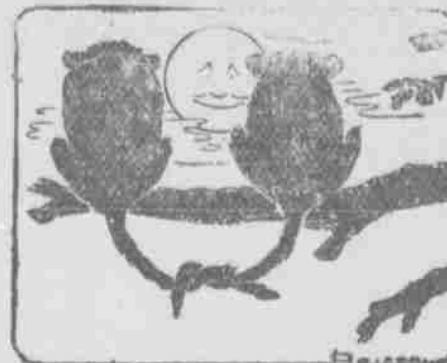
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